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CEREBUS

AVE AVID

101
AUG

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More.

More, more, more, more, more.

Have you no shame?

At long, fucking last.

Have

You

No

Shame?!

CEREBUS

No. 101 AUGUST 1987

DAVE SIM
President

KAREN McKIEL
Administrator

GERHARD
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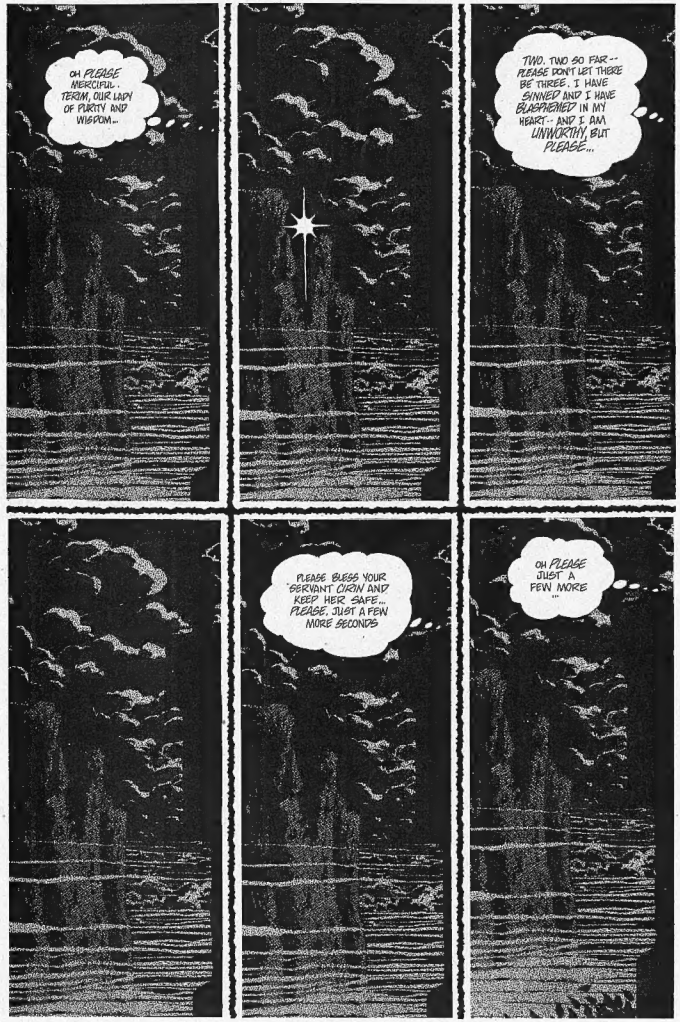
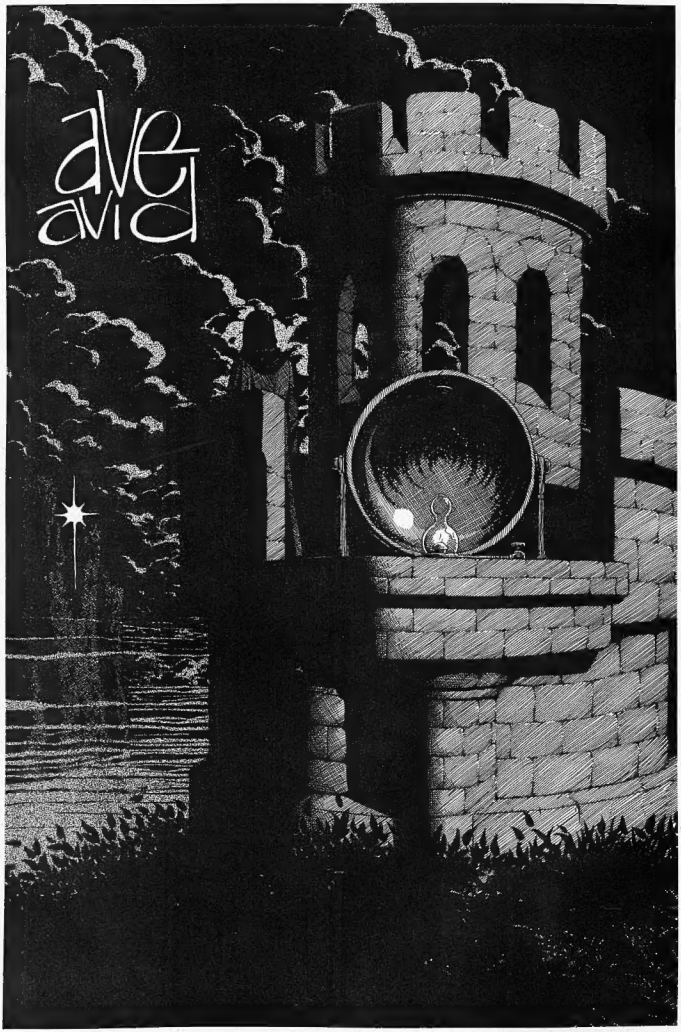
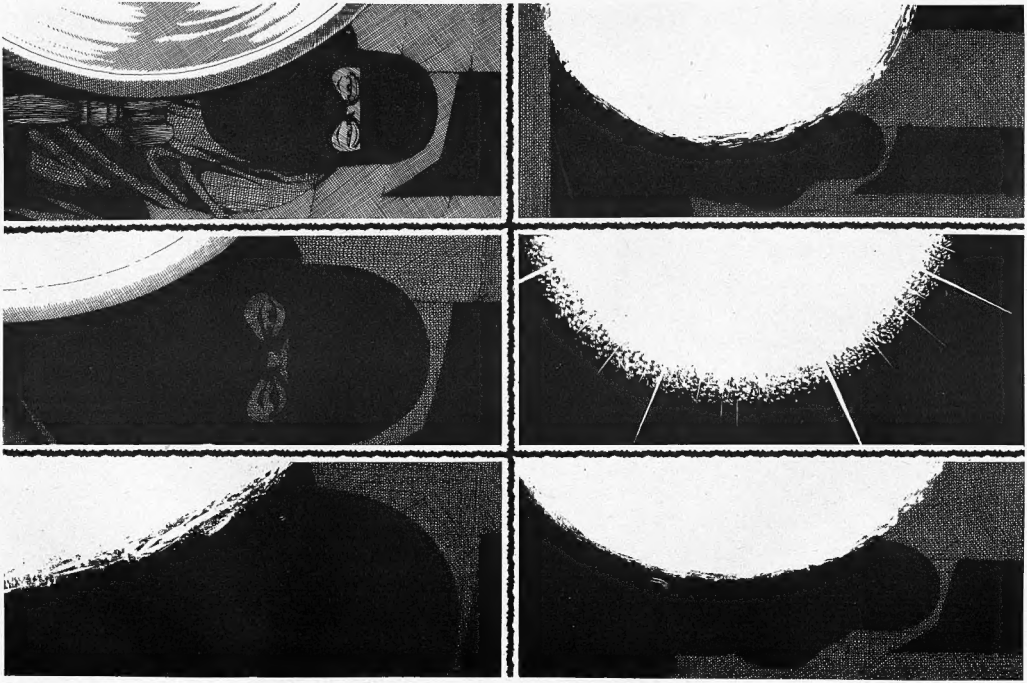
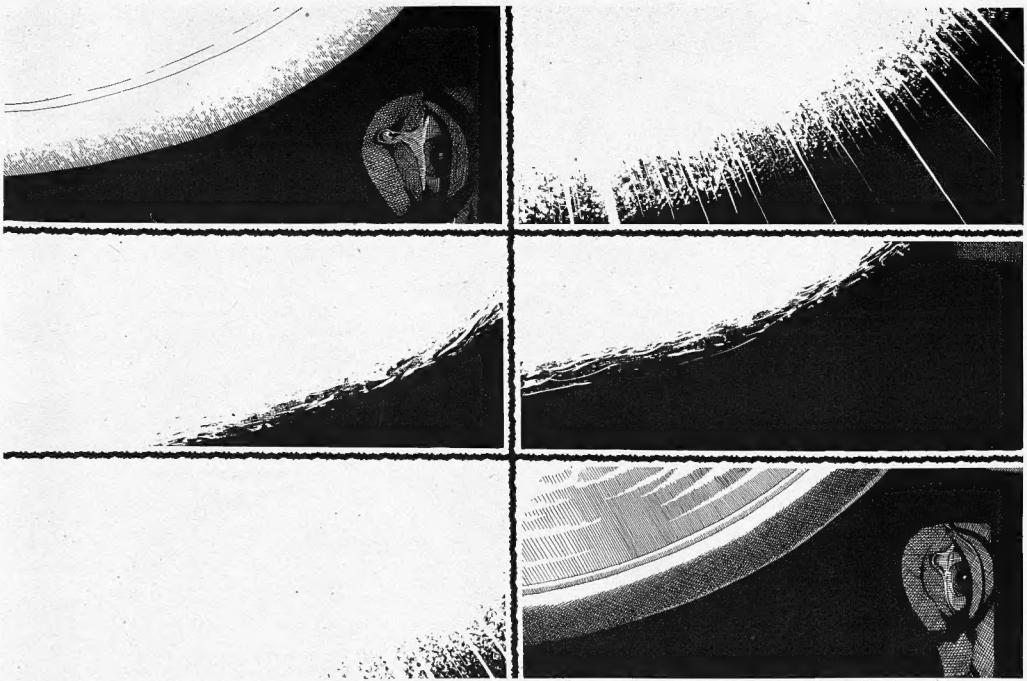
Dave and Ger will be guests Aug. 30th, Toronto Charity Comic Con, Concert Hall, Toronto, 888 Yonge Street.


OH PLEASE MERCIFUL... TERUM, OUR LADY OF PURITY AND WISDOM...
TWO. TWO SO FAR-- PLEASE DON'T LET THERE BE THREE. I HAVE SINNED AND I HAVE BLASPHEMED IN MY HEART-- AND I AM UNWORTHY, BUT PLEASE...
PLEASE BLESS YOUR SERVANT CHIN AND KEEP HER SAFE.. PLEASE, JUST A FEW MORE SECONDS
OH PLEASE JUST A FEW MORE ...


ave
avia

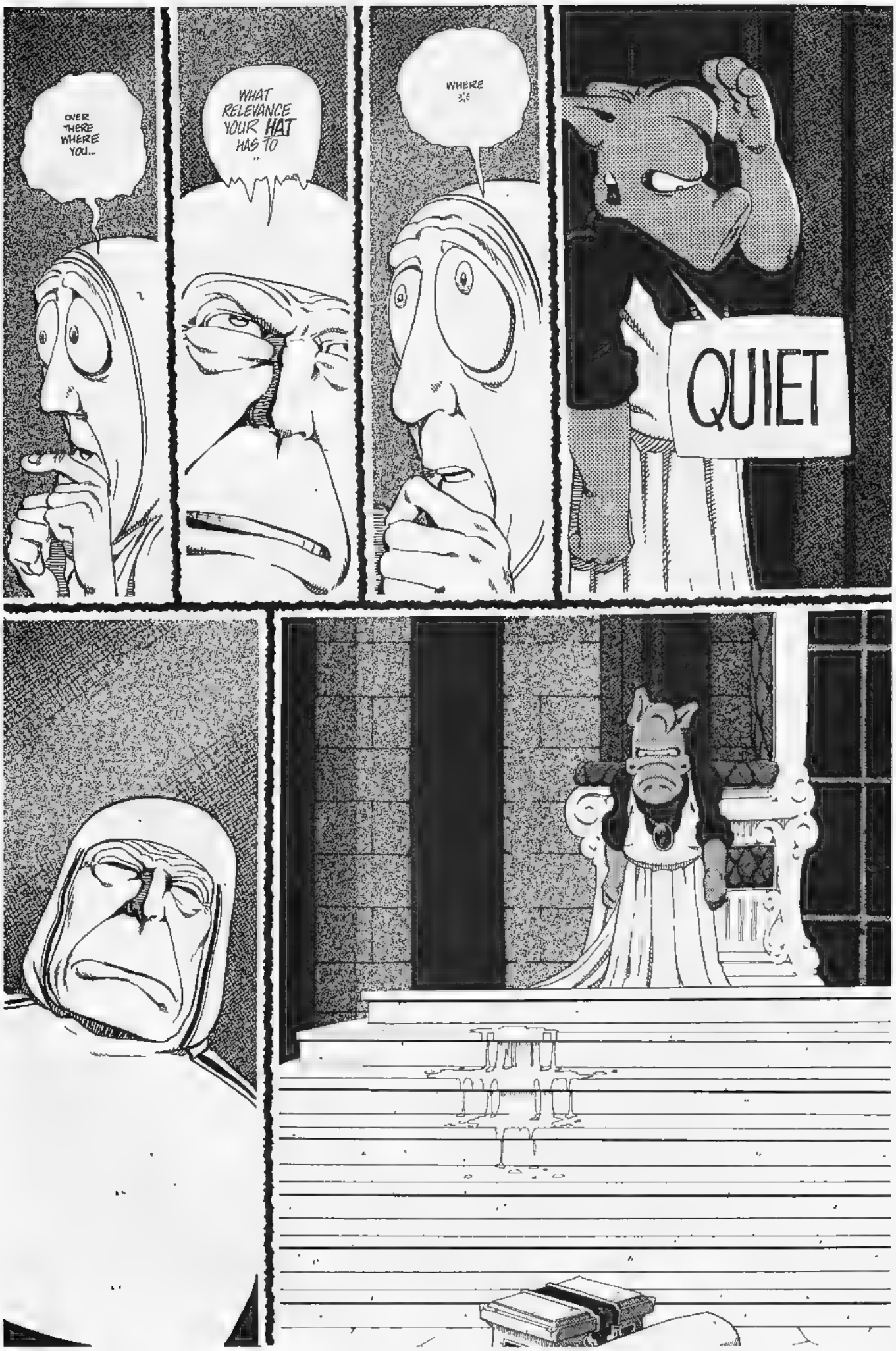




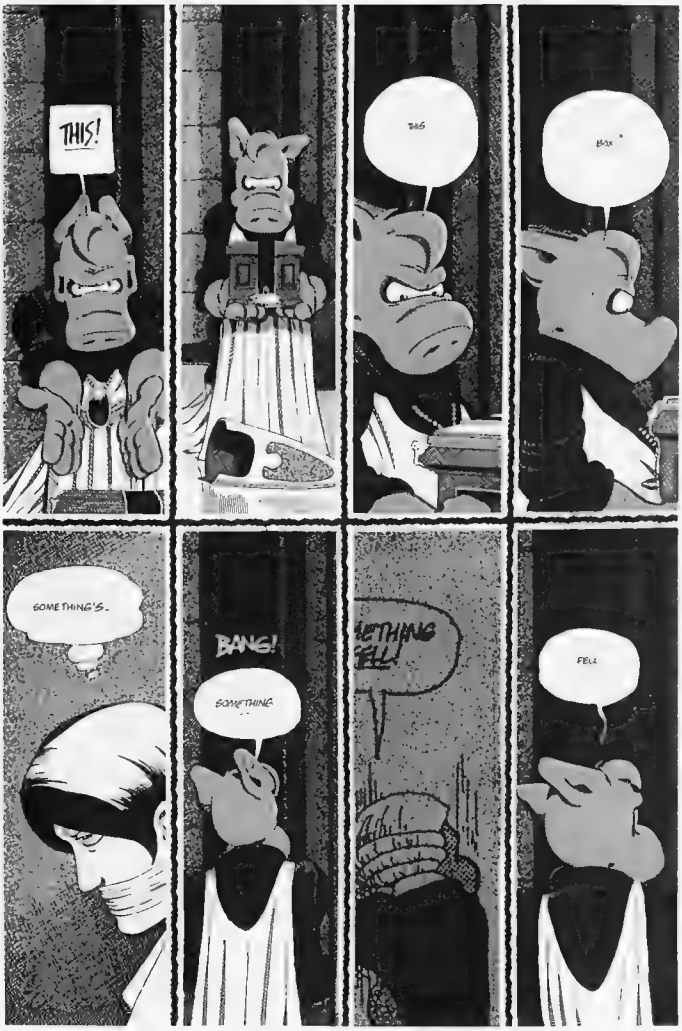
YES. ALL OF THE FORCES --
THEY'RE COMING FOR US BOTH, YOU KNOW
SOON.
IT'S TIME YOU SEE
TIME FOR YOU TO EXECUTE ME --
-- AND THEM TO EXECUTE YOU

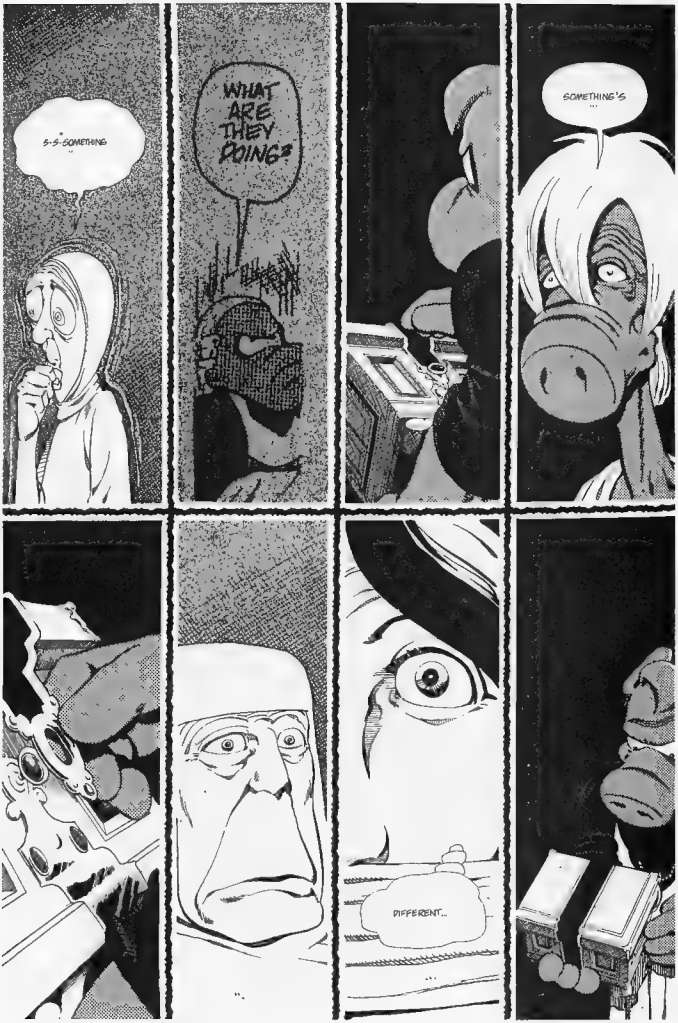
WHAT DID YOU SAY...?
I ASKED YOU, MOST HOLY---
--WHAT--
"--IS THERE--"
" TO THINK ABOUT?"
OH.

CEREBUS' HAT.
MOST HOLY?
CEREBUS' HAT...
THE THING CEREBUS WEARS ON HIS MOST HOLY HEAD...
IT'S GONE.
MOST HOLY--I FAIL TO SEE...
OVER THERE ...
WHAT?
I SAID "I FAIL TO SEE..."


OVER THERE WHERE YOU...
WHAT RELEVANCE YOUR HAT HAS TO ..
WHERE
QUIET

WHAT'S THIS?


THIS!
THIS
BOX
SOMETHING'S..
BANG!
SOMETHING..
ETHING
ELL!
FELL


S-S-SOMETHING...
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
SOMETHING'S...
DIFFERENT...

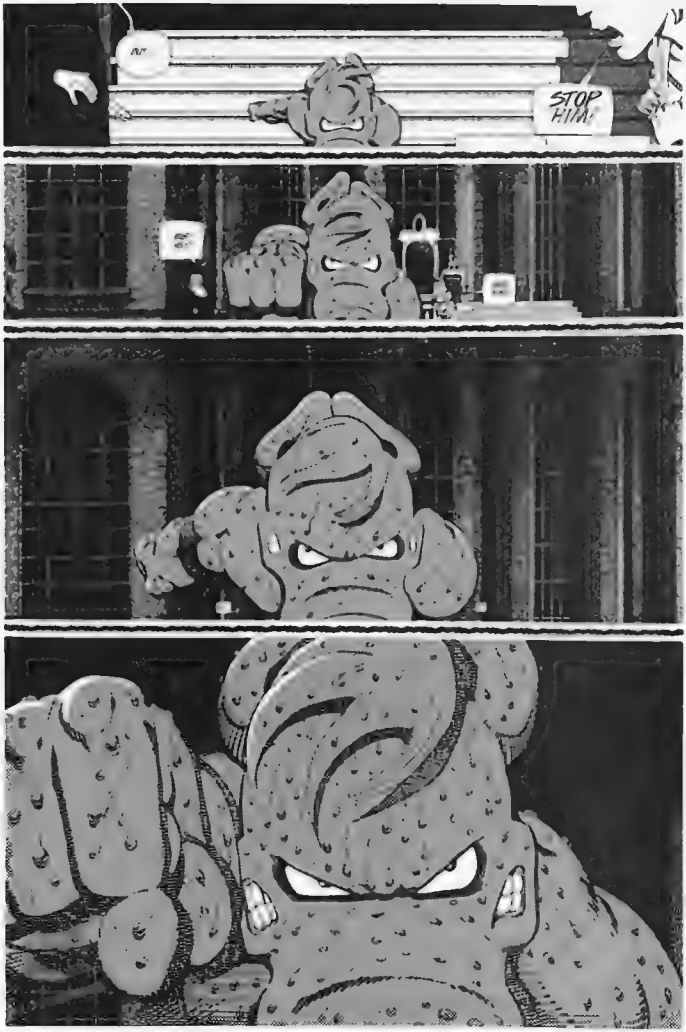
DOING?
OMETHING
FELL!
DOING?

GOOD
LUCK
W.

BANG
MM!

MM
MM
MM

STOP


STOP HIM!

The Final Ascension

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AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dear Dave

Your "Notes" in **Cerebus #99** was wonderfully helpful in explaining many of the rather weird things which happened to Cerebus in recent issues. Though a Roman Catholic, I never made the connection between "Cerebus the Pope" and the doctrine of infallibility held by the church. I guess that's because "Infallibility" and "Popeness" aren't as tightly joined in the mind of Catholics as they are in many non-Catholics. However, if you are going to establish "Infallibility of Cerebus the Pope" as justification for the strange things he can apparently do (like making Astoria "go away"), then you're making an elaboration upon the standard Church thought upon this matter.

By "infallibility", the Catholic Church means "unable to mislead or deceive on matters of Faith, Morals, or Doctrine." Also, the Pope can only make infallible statements during official proclamations "from the Chair". Such statements are always considered carefully before they are made, and are never the "off-the-cuff" ideas of the pope alone. This doctrine was established to justify the belief that Church traditions were on a par with scripture; which is also considered "infallible."

If the Pope were to take it into his head that the sky was green, it wouldn't change color, and nobody in the world would be obliged to believe that it had. But when the Pope, with the advice of theologians, scientists, and clergy, makes a decision on the morality of artificial insemination, the whole world sits up and takes notice.

Now don't get me wrong. Most Holy is amazing on innumerable levels, and I personally love the fact that the office of pope infers magical and holy powers upon the person occupying it. (Of course, I'm only assuming that this is the source of Cerebus's abilities. You'll prove me wrong, I'm sure, as you have done in the past.) But I didn't want to reinforce the idea in many people's heads that Catholics believe that the pope (ours, not yours) can do anything through the power of his office. If he could, do you really think Poland would be a subjugated nation?

Sincerely yours,

Robert J. Ritchie
5211 Via Alizar
Orlando, FL., 32809

That's an interesting (albeit bet-hedging) definition of infallibility they have there, isn't it? I particularly like the "unable" part.

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Dave,

I am a Catholic who does not believe the pope is perfect despite the doctrine of papal infallibility, but the doctrine troubled me a lot, so I asked a catholic theology major friend of mine about it a year or so ago. According to him, the doctrine only applies to strictly theological issues, i.e. the pope could not declare (at least not infallibly) that Genesis was to

Steve Bissette's first sketch of a proposed series for Aardvark One International. Looks like great box office to me.

be interpreted literally, nor would he be infallible in a poker game. Additionally, the pope must be specifically making an infallible statement; he must be stating something that a majority or a lot or whatever of Catholics already believe and that has become some sort of religious tradition (for instance, the current views on abortion are specifically not infallible, I think). The church has also left itself an out: though infallible opinions are divine, they may not be interpreted/expressed in the infallible form in which God sent them. Some Council held after the reformation declared that the communion wasn't symbolic, but that Christ was present, physically, i.e. muscle, sinews and all. Today, it is assumed that his spirit is present but it's not merely symbolic. Of course, there are also political checks. One pope once claimed that all living things were subject to his will, and was ignored by pretty much all living things except a few people who'd already believed it. Another tried to do something like excommunicate all Scotland's priests, but the Scottish church went on.

Personally, I think it's all hokey except for loving thy neighbor as thyself, and I'm not claiming to be a theological expert anyway. The story-line obviously has significance far beyond its relevance to the church doctrines. I just thought I'd put in my two cents to the discussion to see what they're worth.

Jonathan Alvarado

If "His spirit is present "(or "his" as the case may be)" but (is) not merely symbolic", what is it?

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Dave:

First off, let me say that I enjoy Cerebus very much. Consistently interesting and well-drawn (albeit with a plot mired in molasses, nay, frozen molasses), it is the only title I buy every month (or two weeks, as the case may be).

However, neither you nor the Pope is infallible. Displaying the ignorance of the masses in your editorial in #99, you claim the Catholic church is largely founded on the notion of infallibility. Actually, it's largely founded on the infallibility of J.C. his ownself. The Pope is not infallible on a day-to-day basis. An infallible statement is made only after a great deal of meditation and hoopla, and usually concerns fundamental matters of doctrine. The three, count 'em, three such statements in the history of the church have all dealt with the Virgin Mary. One covered just that, the other two dealt with her lack of original, or any other, sin and her bodily ascension into heaven.

Despite the quite extraordinary number of Pope's bastards floating around out there, no such statements have been made justifying a Pope's personal actions.

Having dismissed the Catholic Church as slightly less hypocritical than the PTL Club years ago, I no longer subscribe to even the *three* infallible statements, much less the daily droolings of the current clown.

At any rate, keep up the good work.

Yours,

Neil Gendzwill
309B 4040 8th St. E.,
Saskatoon, SASK
S7H 5L4

Now THIS I find fascinating. What did the direct successors of St. Peter decide about these aspects of the Virgin Mary? This sounds like Cirinist/Kevillist stuff, folks. Why do you suppose it troubled them enough to make it so significant a proclamation?

★★★★★★★★★★

Dear Dave,

So there I was, reading your editorial comments in Cerebus #96 - you know, the one about your bar-room activities - when all of a sudden a strange thought entered my head. All at once, I have a vision of you standing in a bar chatting to a "hot-looking chick," and getting on very well with her, when all of a sudden she casually asks you what you do for a living.

So, what do you tell her? "I draw a comic about a talking aardvark?" maybe? In which case, how does she react? Does she dissolve into a helpless fit of laughter, make her excuses and leave rather abruptly, or does she say "no, come on, what do you **really** do for a living?" Or, do you opt for a total cop-out and say "I chronicle the adventures of a very lucrative character to which I own all the rights and which will one day earn me a fortune?" I really think we should be told.

Regards,

Neil Hussey
22 Mauseen Avenue
Sandyford,
Stoke-On-Trent,
Staffs, England

P.S. Don't worry Dave, I still think you're a great guy, even though you do draw a comic about a talking aardvark.

Actually from the moment I say that I write and draw a comic book, the conversation takes care of itself. In order of appearance (a) "What's it called?" (they never heard of it) (b) "Where do you buy them?" (they have stores for that?) (c) "How many do you sell?" followed by "How many do you do a year?" (even those with the most rudiment grasp of math or rigidity of character tend to get glinty eyes at this one), (d) "What's it about?" the answer to that one depends on whether I want to get down to cases or if I want to kill a few hours first or if I just want to flirt or save her for next week. If want to kill a few hours I would probably say "Lust and morality", or "Good girls and bad girls" (no hot-looking looking chick wants to be thought of as a good girl) or "Aardvark lust". If I wanted to flirt I would say "Cerebus the Aardvark and all his girl-friends" or "Power". If I want to save her for next week I'll say "Why don't you come up to the studio" and give her the address and phone number. If I want to get down to cases I'll say "Why don't we finish these drinks and I'll get you a copy up at the studio. . ." "Will you autograph it?" (Sure.)

Lately I haven't been interested in talking to anyone new so I tell them I publish comic books. Works better than having a piece of corn stuck in your teeth.

★★★★★★★★★★

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